

## DUN'S REVIEW

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## THE WEEK.

Trade broadens in a healthy manner in response to lower temperature and holiday demand. Staple lines of heavy-weight wearing apparel are readily distributed, and the movement of Christmas goods promises to add one more to the many new high records established by 1905. Many manufacturers in these lines are unable to fill orders, notably those producing jewelry, candy, toys and novelties. Wholesale business is on a scale that promises well for next season, shipping departments are taxed to the utmost, and mercantile collections are satisfactory, with a few exceptions, which are confined chiefly to Southern districts where cotton has not been marketed promptly. Prices have made further advances, Dun's Index Number being \$105.312 on December 1, against \$103.853 a month previous, and the past week has brought a still higher level. There was nothing in the State documents to disturb confidence, industrial activity is showing greater progress than at any previous time, and railway earnings in November were 6.1 per cent. larger than last year's. Foreign commerce at this port for the last week showed a gain of \$1,119,395 in imports, and a decrease of \$2,421,005 in exports, as compared with the same week of 1904. Money became tight on call, but there was little of the usual accompanying liquidation of securities, testifying to the financial strength of holders. Funds continue ample for commercial needs, severe stringency being restricted to Wall Street. Bank exchanges were 1.3 per cent. smaller at New York than in the same week last year, owing to a decrease of almost 50 per cent. in sales of securities, while at other leading cities there was an average increase of 4.6 per cent.

New business in the iron and steel industry may be coming forward a little less freely, but the demand for many products is so far ahead of supply that there is little interest in current operations. The leading producer announces that contracts average about 50,000 tons daily, which is 15,000 tons in excess of capacity, so that deliveries must be constantly encroaching on the future. Some mills are sold ten months ahead, an indication that little idleness need be feared in 1906 unless an unexampled flood of cancellations

should appear. This danger is being guarded against by the endeavors to hold prices within bounds, and thus far they have proved successful. The only change for the week was greater firmness in some grades of pig iron, although the largest consumer has not yet contracted for the deliveries next year that were confidently anticipated. Alabama would increase the yield of iron if the labor supply was sufficient, new furnaces being ready to go into blast, but lacking necessary hands. Although the advancing season has cut down building activity a little, the demand for structural material has put the mills so far behind that large imports are announced. More new high record prices for recent years have been established in the markets for minor metals.

In the cotton goods industry it has at last become necessary for producers to recognize the higher position attained by the raw material. Had there existed any large supply of goods at the mills or in primary markets, buyers might have resisted the upward tendency by postponing purchases in anticipation of an early reaction in raw cotton. Some standard brands have not yet joined the movement, but brown cottons tend upward and heavy sheetings are from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent higher. Export trade is not encouraged by the new quotations, although moderate orders are received for certain heavy goods on which prices were quoted before the crop report appeared. A few low grade goods in men's wools have been opened, but there is no general disposition to show lines for next year, chiefly because of the uncertainty in the raw wool market. Worsted manufacturers are making preparations to increase their capacity, as results in the current season have demonstrated that the demand exceeds facilities in this class of goods.

Recent large purchases of hides supplied the leading tanners for some time to come, in a few cases contracts covering saltings as remote as February, and packers' stocks are so light that they do not force sales. Consequently, the market is quiet, but no weaker than a proper response to the seasonable deterioration in quality of late receipts. Leather is firm, but quiet, market conditions closely resembling the hide situation. The only novel event was the beginning of a return movement of sole leather shipped to Japan for war purposes. It is not needed there, and finds a ready market here, while the price has risen about three cents during its long voyage. New England shoe manufacturers receive a steady volume of supplementary contracts, covering deliveries as late as May, and salesmen in the West and South send encouraging reports of existing conditions among wholesalers.

Strength has appeared in the markets for farm staples, grain rising in the face of statistics calculated to produce depression and reports from winter wheat districts that the weather conditions promise well for the next crop. Instead of the heavy domestic movement on the Lakes that might be anticipated owing to approaching close of navigation, insurance rates became practically prohibitive because of recent storms. Winnipeg receipts of Manitoba wheat are fully maintained, however. Arrivals of domestic wheat at primary western markets were 5,404,538 bushels for the week, against 5,797,242 last year, but exports from all ports of the United States were 3,255,368 bushels, flour included, compared with only 1,101,855 in 1904. Receipts of 3,740,527 bushels of corn fell short of the 5,868,683 a year ago, but Atlantic coast exports of 1,931,032 bushels largely exceeded the 359,304 last year. Official figures made the cotton crop so small that prices rose \$5 a bale to the highest point of the year, which discouraged new foreign buying, although exports continued fairly heavy on old contracts.

Liabilities of commercial failures thus far reported for December amounted to \$1,571,207, of which \$329,666 were in manufacturing, \$923,513 in trading and \$318,028 in other commercial lines. Failures this week numbered 232 in the United States against 239 last year, and 24 in Canada compared with 26 a year ago.

## WEEKLY TRADE REPORTS.

**BOSTON.**—There is a strong undertone to the merchandise markets, with an upward tendency on most staple articles. The early holiday trade is excellent and retailers and jobbers report a large movement in jewelry, toys and other suitable goods. Jewelry manufacturers are very busy and orders are being refused for lack of facilities to fill them in time. From all reports the Christmas traffic this year promises to be the heaviest on record. Dry goods jobbers are preparing for the new season, but still report an excellent call for winter goods. In the primary cotton goods market all tendencies favor the seller. The textile mills are very busy and many are behind on deliveries of cotton fabrics, while worsted men's wear goods are sold far ahead, the production of leading producers being practically sold out. There is a little better feeling in the wool market due to the continued strength abroad. The market for pig iron is quiet and firm. Finished iron and steel products are as so very strong. There is slight falling off in the demand for lumber, notwithstanding the season, and there is no perceptible increase in the offerings of the kinds most in demand. Prices remain strong on spruce and pine. Trading in flour has fallen off, buyers having generally covered their immediate wants, but there is a steady traffic in small lines and millers hold firm to late quotations. With firmer prices trading in coarse grains has enlarged and business in oats has been particularly active, prices ruling a cent higher than last week. Dairy products are firm, but not specially active.

**WORCESTER.**—The holiday trade has opened up well. Under more favorable weather conditions retail trade has been greatly stimulated. Leading houses reported a substantial gain over the corresponding period of last year, with the outlook most encouraging. Labor is well employed, and money is circulating freely. The machine industry is very active, with heavy orders for future delivery.

**ALBANY.**—Retail business is brisk, and holiday trade promises to exceed previous records. Jobbers of groceries report a very active demand for merchandise in territories tributary to this market. Jobbers of hardware say demands are so numerous and pressing, that they have much difficulty in handling their business. Collections are fairly good, and outstanding accounts in various lines of wholesale trade are said to be rather smaller than usual at this time. Banks are generally well loaned up, and there is apparently not much surplus money.

**TROY.**—Jobbing and retail trade in nearly all lines has been very satisfactory. Manufacturers of knit goods report an unusually good fall trade, and find it difficult to supply the demand for duplicate orders. Manufacturers of shirts, collars and cuffs report the volume of business ahead of what it was at this time last year, with collections better. Manufacturers of stoves report business holding on to an unusual extent.

**PHILADELPHIA.**—During the past week the wool market has been very quiet, but firm. Manufacturers show little inclination to purchase in advance of immediate needs, and dealers are not pressing sales or offering any concession in order to close contracts. The market is in sellers' favor. The textile manufacturers are all well employed, with the exception of manufacturers of upholstery goods, which for some time past have been unusually dull, but during the past few weeks some improvement has been shown, and machinery idle for some time is now in operation. Wholesale dry goods trade continues active, but in some quarters local collections continue to be a little slow. Jobbers of woolen goods state they have had a good season, and collections generally have been good. Jobbers of hosiery, underwear, etc., reported fall trade quiet owing to the mild weather, but during the last week or ten days there has been a decided improvement and collections are fair. The iron and steel market is quieter. Books are well filled with orders, running over into the new year, and all report a

satisfactory business. Manufacturers of railroad equipments are very busy and plants are running to full capacity. Pig iron has been quiet, being confined to immediate wants. Finished material is firm, prices are strong and the demand good. The general situation continues strong.

Trade continues active in the leather market. Prices remain practically the same, with a slight advance in some lines of heavy leather. There is some difficulty felt in securing sufficient stock to fill present orders for rougher grades. There has been a fair trade in glazed kid, the call being principally in clump skins, with only a moderate stock on hand. Light weight skins have sold readily, and the stock has been materially increased. The raw hide market shows little activity and prices remain about the same. Shoe jobbers report only a fair trade and collections poor. Purchases are made strictly for immediate use. Activity in the wholesale as well as the retail lumber trade continues. The demand is greater than the supply in sight. Prices are very firm in most grades and collections are good. The building situation remains unchanged, permits being taken out almost daily for new operations, principally two-story houses. Brick manufacturers report a slight decrease in amount of sales but prices are about normal on all grades, except hard brick which is inclined to be low. Cement manufacturers continue to report large orders and prices are good. Collections are only fair. Wholesale paper dealers report trade conditions in general as satisfactory at this time. The volume of sales is fully up to the normal. Prices are firm.

**PITTSBURG.**—General merchandise lines are active. Jobbers report that buying in all departments is above the average for the season and it is expected that the year's business will exceed all previous records. Dry goods are called for on an extensive scale and prices on cotton goods show an upward tendency. Holiday lines are in urgent demand and are moving out freely. Jobbers in groceries report a healthy condition and a large volume of business is being handled. Hardware continues to improve and there is a liberal call for seasonable lines. Considering the cold weather the lumber trade is retaining its activity and a fair volume of business is handled. White pine is quoted at \$85 to \$90; yellow pine, \$28, and hemlock, \$16.50 to \$18.50. There is a strong demand for coal and prices are firm. Much complaint is still heard regarding transportation facilities. There is a fair demand for window glass, but competition is strong and prices are suffering.

**SCRANTON.**—Retail trade in the Lackawanna region has been stimulated by seasonable weather. Output of the anthracite mines continues to be large and is increasing, with resultant large wage payments. Conditions of local industry continue favorable in almost every line. There is, however, complaint of slow collections and the over-shadowing influence of possible labor troubles is still felt. Scranton banks report an increase in deposits, particularly in the savings department.

**BALTIMORE.**—There is a healthy activity in wholesale lines, and while there is no abnormal increase noted in orders for future delivery, the outlook for next season appears bright. In wholesale dry goods, collections are better than for some years past; prices are very firm and the demand for seasonable merchandise active. Manufacturers of clothing report orders for spring shipment fully up to last year's at this period; values are higher and collections good. While the volume of sales in hosiery, underwear and knit goods is up to the standard, there is general complaint about collections, retailers being unable to move stocks on account of the mild weather. Boot and shoe jobbers and manufacturers report a continued large demand at the advanced prices, and collections are unusually good. The leaf tobacco market is very quiet; stocks in sight are small and values very high. Harness factories are fairly supplied with orders; prices are very firm in sympathy with the advance in raw material, and prospects for next season are good. The fertilizer market is improving, with a fair demand and prices firm.

**RICHMOND.**—Sales by both jobbers and manufacturers in nearly all lines are better than last year. Holiday goods have been especially active during this week. In boots, shoes, leather and similar lines prices are higher than at any time during last year and show advancing tendencies. The weather has interfered very little with building operations. Weather conditions for the handling of tobacco have improved during the last ten days and farmers are bringing in liberal proportions of their crops.

**CHARLESTON.**—Trade conditions are good; collections are a little backward owing to the holding of cotton. Fertilizer manufacturers report satisfactory early orders.

**ATLANTA.**—Hardware and shoe sales are holding up pretty well, but there is not much activity in millinery, men's hats, groceries or drugs. This is the dull season for dry goods, orders either being small or for future shipment. Money is coming in quite freely.

**NEW ORLEANS.**—All manufacturers and jobbers report an active trade, and the movement of merchandise continues large. In a number of lines jobbers are finding it difficult to obtain sufficient merchandise to fill orders and nearly all manufacturers are working over time. The demand for boots and shoes has been unusually good. Collections in some sections are fairly good, in others slow, and there is general complaint that they are not as good as expected. The real estate market has been active, a number of large transactions having been consummated at very good figures. Retail trade is seasonable. The demand both for rough and clean rice is good, with limited offerings which are all taken up at full prices. The demand for sugar has fallen off, and the market is quiet.

**LOUISVILLE.**—Dry goods are still moving freely and jobbers of groceries are very busy. Harness and saddlery dealers have had an active week. Woolen mills and knitting mills have plenty of orders and are working full time. With iron foundry business has kept up longer than usual and general conditions encouraging. Collections are good.

**MEMPHIS.**—Trade in all jobbing lines is satisfactory for this time of the year and the volume compares favorably with last season. Prospects for holiday business with retailers are very good. A number of new enterprises have been started and four financial institutions were formed during the past week. Collections are fair. The Government estimate of the cotton crop caused some activity in that staple. The market is firm, middling quoted 12 cents.

**CINCINNATI.**—Retail trade in all branches continues active. The wholesale drug and chemical trade is good and collections are above the average. Wholesale grocery trade is about normal. Wholesale clothing manufacturers are busy and have a number of good spring orders booked. Trade in wholesale paper continues good and sales were in excess of last year. The movement in wholesale dry goods during the past week, though checked to some extent by the holidays, has been fair and prices have been firmly sustained. Spot deliveries have been an important feature, and there has been a continuation of selections for the spring trade. The offerings of leaf tobacco during the week were light and amounted to 610 hogsheads, which averaged \$9.25 per hundred pounds. The quality was very fair. The pig iron market has been quiet, so far as new contracts have been concerned.

**CLEVELAND.**—Holiday trade is opening up favorably. Merchants anticipate a good season. Business in dry goods, notions, etc., is active, and heavy advance orders for next spring are being booked. Mills and factories are operating fully, and mill supplies are in good demand. The real estate market continues active. The season now closing has been a record breaker in the building line. Collections are coming in freely.

**DETROIT.**—The business outlook continues favorable and the volume of trade in a number of lines is from 5 to 15 per cent. ahead of last year, with fair collections. Prices of leather, cotton and woollens are firm and advancing, and

there is a shortage of cars to move freight offered. Banks report a good demand for loans, rates being 5½ to 6 per cent. Bank clearings have increased over 10 per cent. Building permits for eleven months are \$9,359,500, against \$6,318,300 the same time last year.

**INDIANAPOLIS.**—Building permits for November amounted to half a million dollars, a large increase over last year. Factories are running full handed and in several lines are employing night and day forces. Manufacturers of automobiles are preparing for an active season and orders are far in advance of previous years. Jobbers in groceries, shoes and dry goods report trade good, but some complain of collections in agricultural communities. Candy manufacturers are unable to fill orders. Retail trade is fully up to the average for the holiday season. Money is in demand at from 5 to 6 per cent.

**CHICAGO.**—Trade conditions are satisfactory. Dealings in the leading retail and jobbing lines continue of large volume. The movement of commodities, although lower for farm and dairy products, hides and live stock, continues to be of unprecedented proportions, and many complaints are heard as to difficulty in obtaining necessary cars. With the near close of lake navigation shippers fear that transportation conditions will become worse. Colder weather has stimulated a wider consumption of necessities and additional re-orders appeared for urgent forwarding to various interior points. House trade is quiet in the wholesale division, but road salesman have been turning in good orders for spring delivery, and, compared with a year ago, forward bookings make a gratifying showing in dry goods, clothing, footwear, furniture and carpets. Mercantile collections are reasonably prompt on city and country bills.

Manufacturing makes steady progress. In iron and steel production all capacity is pressed to the limit, and pig iron brings \$20 per ton for delivery during second quarter of 1906. Railroad commitments for additional motive power and cars provide considerable work, and more buying of standard and light rails adds to the already overcrowded bookings for next year. Machinery branches, hardware and farm implements are obtaining a fair amount of new business, while trade conditions remain satisfactory in the electrical branches, belt making and mill work. The markets for raw material sustain exceptional strength, due to the unprecedented consumption, but hides exhibit a very slight decrease in value, the lower average being about one-quarter cent a pound. The tanning industry remains brisk and the demand for leather easily maintains prices at the recent advance. Receipts of hides were 2,861,858 pounds, against 3,490,882 pounds a year ago. Improvement is seen in the demand for hardwoods, and the lumber trade generally is quite active, with prices high for all suitable stock. Receipts of lumber were 46,363,000 feet, against 42,279,000 feet a year ago. Building operations are being pushed forward, larger forces of men being drawn upon, and structural iron and other building stuff is much needed.

**ST. PAUL.**—The merchandise movement continues satisfactory in all departments and indications favor an exceptional holiday business. The wholesale dry goods trade is quiet, as usual at this season, but advance sales are large. Men's furnishing and clothing are in seasonable demand and the former favorable features are fully maintained in hats, furs and caps. Notions and jewelry are fairly active. Rubber goods are in strong demand. Footwear jobbers report a brisk business and harness manufacturers are well employed. Millinery trade is fair.

**MINNEAPOLIS.**—Cold, seasonable weather has stimulated wholesale and retail trade, particularly in hats, caps, furs, clothing and footwear. Holiday trade is appearing in the retail lines, and the purchase of goods for both immediate and future delivery shows no abatement. Prices are firm, with an advancing tendency, and collections are satisfactory. Shipments of lumber for the week were 5,600,000 feet, against 5,376,000 feet a year ago.

**ST. LOUIS.**—Mail orders and orders from traveling salesmen exceeded those for the corresponding week last year. Trade in footwear is very active, especially in heavy shoes, and prices are firm. Slight advances were scored in some lines of dry goods. Collections are good. Over two-thirds of the wheat now arriving is of the hard variety. Values this week showed but slight variations. The flour market was again quiet and provisions weaker. Spot cotton was fairly active at an advance of  $\frac{1}{8}$ c. Pig lead advanced 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. per 100 pounds, with bids at \$5.65. Lumber receipts were comparatively light. Good stock ruled stronger. In November 660 building permits were granted, amounting to \$2,385,537, against 534 amounting to \$1,355,982 last year. The return flow of money from the country has begun, but the demand from local customers is only moderate. Call and time loans range from 5 to 6 per cent.

**KANSAS CITY.**—The wholesale shoe business is active. In dry goods there is a fair sorting business and some future orders, but trade is slackening for the holiday season. There is a good demand for groceries and drugs. Trade is normal in hardware and farm implements. Holiday goods are selling well. Collections are good. Retail trade is fair. The money market is firm, but the demand is less urgent. Rates are steady. Cattle came in liberally and lower prices prevailed. Hogs were in good supply and demand and at good prices. Sheep were fairly active and higher.

**PORTLAND, Ore.**—Orders from the interior to jobbers indicate the best holiday business in the history of the State. Official announcement of plans for railroad building are doing much to stimulate trade, and are causing renewed activity in building operations and industrial developments. This is the heaviest year in Portland real estate transactions, the total of eleven months exceeding those of last year by \$1,550,105. Transfers in November numbered 974, of a value of \$1,712,215. There were 248 building permits issued last month of an aggregate value of \$409,992. The wheat and flour markets are quiet, but a large forward business is being transacted on past sales. Total wheat shipments in November were 1,445,972 bushels, of which half went to California. There were 228,070 barrels of flour shipped by water, 191,395 barrels going to the Orient. Total grain shipments, flour included as wheat, from all North Pacific ports in November were 6,129,337 bushels, and for the cereal year to date 16,312,621 bushels, as compared with 9,312,621 bushels in the same period last year, and the previous record shipments of 13,368,536 bushels in the season of 1901-02. Barley shipments from Portland in November were 165,729 bushels.

### Trade Conditions in Canada.

**MONTREAL.**—With many houses engaged in stock-taking, and the approach of the holiday season, wholesale business is assuming a quieter phase, but the trade situation as a whole presents few weak features. Considering the complaints of a somewhat slow retail trade in dry goods, owing to the open fall season, payments are being pretty well met, some leading wholesalers in this line reporting over 80 per cent. of customers' paper as being taken up on the 4th, and general collections are fair to good. In Christmas lines there is an active sorting business. Strong advances are noted in many lines, notably metals. Lead is higher than it has been for years, from \$1.50 to \$1.55 being now quoted in an ordinary way, with prospects of further stiffening; tin, copper and spelter are also higher than a week ago.

**TORONTO.**—In wholesale circles trade is moderately active. Holiday goods are in most request, and the indications favor a large turn over. Retail business shows great activity. Hardware and groceries are in fair demand. Payments are satisfactory.

**QUEBEC.**—Navigation has closed and wholesale trade has settled down for the usual quiet winter season. The shoe industry is quite active, some of the factories having more orders than they can fill. In some sections collections are slow.

### BANK EXCHANGES.

Bank clearings are again close to the highest ever recorded, at some leading cities they are at the top notch—total exchanges this week at all leading cities in the United States being \$3,177,168,893, an increase of 0.3 per cent. over last year and of 60.1 per cent. over the corresponding week of 1903. There is a gain at nearly every city in comparison with last year, when clearings were unusually large, and the few losses that appear are not especially significant. Notable gains at Pittsburg, Cleveland, Chicago and San Francisco reflect exceptional activity at those centers. Average daily bank exchanges for the first week of December are nearly as large as the recording breaking report last year. Figures for the week and average daily bank exchanges for the year to date are compared below for three years:

	Week. Dec. 7, 1905	Week. Dec. 8, 1904	Per Cent.	Week. Dec. 10, 1903	Per Cent.
Boston .....	\$172,454,422	\$160,634,697	+ 7.3	\$128,106,770	+34.6
Philadelphia ..	159,387,015	180,628,167	-11.8	100,392,915	+58.7
Baltimore .....	36,441,257	35,112,716	+ 3.8	21,848,477	+66.8
Pittsburg .....	55,001,303	49,968,993	+10.1	35,627,087	+57.2
Cincinnati .....	27,040,450	27,239,250	- 0.7	23,365,100	+15.7
Cleveland .....	18,525,213	14,374,429	+28.9	13,743,192	+34.8
Chicago .....	244,198,264	209,783,366	+16.4	179,498,611	+36.0
Minneapolis .....	24,808,048	27,480,997	- 9.7	19,178,347	+29.6
St. Louis .....	67,879,132	71,068,725	- 4.5	53,925,924	+25.8
Kansas City .....	27,002,051	25,056,987	+ 7.8	21,662,386	+24.7
Louisville .....	12,908,174	12,433,453	+ 3.8	11,888,878	+ 8.6
New Orleans .....	29,711,080	29,610,992	+ 0.3	28,681,822	+ 3.6
San Francisco ..	42,399,112	33,709,784	+25.8	28,964,130	+46.4
Total .....	\$917,735,521	\$877,102,556	+ 4.6	\$666,842,619	+37.6
New York .....	2,259,433,372	2,289,428,097	- 1.3	1,317,278,654	+71.5
Total all .....	\$3,177,168,893	\$3,166,530,653	+ 0.3	\$1,984,121,273	+60.1
Average daily:					
Dec. to date .....	\$529,528,000	\$531,892,000	- 0.4	\$345,173,000	+53.4
November .....	502,528,000	483,032,000	+ 4.0	319,104,000	+57.5
October .....	444,267,000	408,069,000	+ 8.9	307,689,000	+26.5
3d Quarter .....	381,107,000	302,474,000	+28.6	301,142,000	+29.2
2d Quarter .....	430,507,000	292,165,000	+47.3	338,313,000	+24.3
1st Quarter .....	444,098,000	309,495,000	+43.5	363,147,000	+22.3

### THE MONEY MARKET.

Another shipment of money has gone to San Francisco, amounting to about half a million dollars, but otherwise the transfer of funds has been checked by active holiday trade at all points and the distribution of December dividends, which offset a tendency of cash to New York to take advantage of the very attractive rates that have been ruling. Ultimately, it is certain that the money sent to the West and South for handling the crops will return to this center, but temporary factors may postpone the movement, just as the foreign exchange market is now dominated by conditions abroad that prevent the imports of gold which might be expected when money rates are so high at this season. Official reports indicate that the per capita amount of money in circulation has established a new record at \$31.75, yet the financial situation is most stringent, and last week's bank averages denoted a weaker condition than conservative financiers desire, especially in view of the aggressive efforts that are made to boom prices of various securities from time to time. With call money averaging 15 per cent., however, there is little probability of any prolonged buying by the general public, which operates on margins as a rule, and hence supplies a large demand for borrowed money. Bar silver has fallen back sharply from the abnormal position attained last week, and gross gold stocks in vaults of the government also ceased to make records, but regular daily operations for the month thus far show a small balance on the right side of the ledger, reducing still further the moderate deficit for the fiscal year. Although sterling exchange fell below the point at which imports of gold were arranged in September, no arrangements have been found profitable because of higher quotations for bar gold at London.

Call money ranged between 6 and 27 per cent., with the bulk of new accommodation on the basis of about 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 14 per cent. Time loans were stronger at 6 per cent. for all dates,

and sometimes a commission. Western correspondents of local banks continue to supply considerable money. Offerings of commercial paper are a little more abundant, with a steady demand from out-of-town institutions. Rates were firm at 5½ to 5¾ for first-class endorsements and 6 to 6½ per cent. for less well known names.

#### FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

Firm money was largely responsible for the comparative ease of exchange, although the better feeling abroad was also a factor of some weight. A better supply of both bankers' and commercial bills were in evidence, and the market had less speculative support. In fact, that element appeared to have shifted its position to the other side of the situation. Gold transfers are less frequently discussed, the recent movement to Mexico being a peculiar operation, and, with any reasonable outgo of grain during the next few months, it may be possible to attract some of the yellow metal from Europe. The domestic money market appears to have become established upon a basis that overshadows all other exchange market influences, for funds will naturally gravitate where they secure the most profit. Quotations ruled each day as follows:

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
Sterling, 60 days.....	4.82½	4.82½	4.82½	4.82	4.81½	4.81½
Sterling, sight.....	4.85½	4.85½	4.85½	4.85½	4.84½	4.84½
Sterling, cables.....	4.86½	4.85½	4.85½	4.86	4.85½	4.85½
Berlin, sight.....	95½	95.06	95½	95.06	95.06	95.06
Paris, sight.....	*3.17½	*3.17½	*3.17½	*3.17½	5.18½	5.18½

\*Less 1-16 per cent.

#### DOMESTIC EXCHANGE.

Rates on New York are as follows: Chicago, 35 cents premium; Boston, 10 cents discount; New Orleans, commercial 75 cents discount, bank \$1 premium; Savannah, buying at 50 cents discount, selling at 75 cents premium; Cincinnati, 5 cents discount; San Francisco, sight par, telegraphic 3 cents; Charleston, buying at par, selling at 1-10 cent premium; St. Louis, 5 cents premium bid, 15 cents asked; Minneapolis, 80 cents premium.

#### SILVER BULLION.

British exports of silver bullion to the Far East during the year up to November 23, according to the circular of Pixley & Abell, were valued at £6,527,266, against £9,271,358 in the corresponding period last year. Of the total, India received £5,674,721, against £8,819,368 in 1904; China received £814,246, compared with £372,722, and the Straits £33,299, against £79,268.

A sharp reaction from best prices occurred in the markets for silver bullion, but support was soon supplied and a partial recovery occurred. The general situation is unchanged, consumption in the arts being enormous, and eastern coinage requirements preventing accumulation at London. Daily closing rates were as follows:

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.
London prices.....	29.75d.	29.62d.	29.37d.	29.56d.	29.44d.	29.37d.
New York prices.....	64.37c.	64.00c.	63.50c.	64.00c.	63.75c.	63.50c.

#### FOREIGN FINANCES.

A weaker position was shown by the Bank of England, holdings of gold coin decreasing £48,887, while loans expanded £1,067,000. The proportion of reserve to liabilities fell to 40.86 per cent., against 41.75 last week. The Bank of France reported a decrease of 2,425,000 francs in gold and contracted loans 218,750,000 francs. Smaller borrowing at the French bank greatly strengthened the position and good reports regarding the Russian deposits for payment of bond interest also strengthened confidence, while the British foreign trade report for November was most satisfactory. Call money at London ruled at 2 to 2½ per cent. and time loans were about 3½ per cent. At Paris the open market rate is about 3 per cent. and at Berlin 4½ per cent.

#### FEDERAL FINANCES.

The latest statement of gold and silver coin and bullion on hand in excess of certificates outstanding, and exclusive of the \$150,000,000 redemption fund, compares as follows:

	Dec. 7, 1905.	Nov. 29, 1905.	Dec. 8, 1904.
Gold owned.....	\$138,989,621	\$133,362,849	\$87,548,897
Silver owned.....	6,952,307	8,220,616	8,787,029

Net stocks of gold increased largely during the past week, but gross gold holdings have ceased to establish new high records, and a moderate decrease occurred in silver owned. The available cash balance is slightly larger at \$1,747,786, but deposits in national banks are not materially altered. For the first week of December receipts exceeded expenditures to the extent of \$3,108,004, which reduced the deficit for the fiscal year to \$9,553,798.

#### MONEY IN CIRCULATION.

New records were again established on December 1 both for the total amount of money in circulation and the per capita proportion. The total was \$2,662,134,539, against \$2,653,131,578 on November 1, and \$2,573,888,367 a year ago. On an estimated population of 83,843,000 the average is \$31.75, an increase of 6 cents compared with the previous high water mark. The largest increase for the month was \$9,000,000 in bank note circulation, while United States notes rose \$3,000,000. Smaller gains occurred in standard silver dollars and subsidiary silver. Losses of over \$2,000,000 each were recorded in stocks of gold coin and certificates. Including Treasury holdings, the total supply of money in the country rose to \$2,976,402,142, against \$2,959,558,851 a month earlier. The principal alterations were increases of \$7,000,000 in gold coin and bullion and \$9,000,000 in national bank notes.

#### NEW YORK BANK AVERAGES.

More than all the previous week's gain in surplus reserves was lost in the last statement of the associated banks, making the position such as to indicate that caution and moderation may be followed in new financial ventures for some time to come. Shipments of gold to Mexico and transfers of currency to San Francisco through the Sub-Treasury combined to produce a severe reduction in cash holdings, while loans expanded as the demands of trade and speculation made large demands on the banks regardless of the unusually high rates prevailing. The net result of all changes was a heavy decrease in reserve and an increase in the cash required against deposits, both operating to eliminate the surplus almost entirely. A surprising feature was the extent to which bank note circulation diminished, in spite of the demand for money. The last statement compares with earlier figures in detail as follows:

	Week's Changes.	Dec. 2, 1905.	Dec. 3, 1904.
Loans.....Inc.	\$11,594,000	\$1,023,882,370	\$1,090,602,900
Deposits.....Inc.	7,994,900	1,007,172,500	1,127,878,100
Circulation.....Dec.	536,100	54,066,500	42,126,500
Specie.....Dec.	4,623,200	179,843,400	212,561,100
Legal tenders.....Inc.	30,200	74,515,100	77,947,500
Total cash.....Dec.	\$4,593,000	\$254,358,500	\$290,508,600
Surplus reserve.....Dec.	6,591,725	2,565,375	\$,539,075

Non-member banks that clear through the New York Clearing House Association report loans \$134,384,600, an expansion of \$904,700; deposits, \$143,589,600, a gain of \$1,197,800; deficit under 25 per cent. cash to total deposits, \$5,382,300, against a deficit of \$4,996,850 last week.

#### SPECIE MOVEMENT.

At this port last week: Silver imports \$49,695, exports \$963,465; gold imports \$49,902, exports \$12,000. Since January 1st: Silver imports \$3,916,823, exports \$33,319,881; gold imports \$13,923,213, exports \$38,359,047.

#### FAILURES AND DEFAULTS.

Commercial failures this week in the United States number 232, against 203 last week, 228 the preceding week and 239 the corresponding week last year. Failures in Canada this week are 24, against 32 the preceding week and 26 the corresponding week last year. Below are given failures reported this week, the two preceding weeks, and for the corresponding week last year, with the total for each section and the number where the liabilities are \$5,000 or more:

	Dec. 7, 1905.		Nov. 30, 1905.		Nov. 23, 1905.		Dec. 8, 1904.	
	Over \$5,000.	Total.	Over \$5,000.	Total.	Over \$5,000.	Total.	Over \$5,000.	Total.
East.....	32	79	29	82	40	83	19	76
South.....	12	57	12	56	22	65	21	66
West.....	29	77	13	47	18	61	21	71
Pacific.....	6	19	5	18	4	19	11	26
United States.....	79	232	59	203	84	228	72	239
Canada.....	8	24	10	32	9	34	5	23

## DUN'S REVIEW.

### PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S MESSAGE.

Once more Mr. Roosevelt has disappointed those who looked for radical and immoderate recommendations in his annual message. On the contrary, he has again presented to Congress the most important issues calling for constructive legislation rather than the destructive enactments desired by the extremists. The whole tenor of his suggestions may be found in the phrase in which he urges "temperate and cautious action" and emphatically protests against "improperly radical or hasty" measures.

Much space is devoted in the opening paragraphs to restraint of corporations and railroad rate regulation, as was anticipated, but after presenting a great mass of information that will be of value to legislators, the President urges expeditious action by the Interstate Commerce Commission in such matters as come before it, adding very properly that the history of cases litigated under the present act shows that efficacy has been to a great degree destroyed by the weapon of delay. As in the case of many other equally important matters, it is not so much a question of the enactment of legislation as the proper administration of laws already on the statute books. A few sentences will suffice to indicate the conservative attitude of the nation's chief executive: "I do not believe in the Government interfering with private business more than is necessary. I do not believe in the Government undertaking any work which can with propriety be left in private hands. \* \* \* Let me most earnestly say that these recommendations are not made in any spirit of hostility to the railroads. \* \* \* I believe that, on the whole, our railroads have done well and not ill. \* \* \* The big railroad men and shippers are simply Americans of the ordinary type who have developed to an extraordinary degree certain great business qualities. They are neither better nor worse than their fellow citizens of smaller means."

Regarding the tariff, President Roosevelt emphasizes the importance of stability, and refers to the shock and strain the business world would experience in case of any serious change, and recommends that no alteration is advisable unless for grave reason. He then refers to last year's deficit and asks that there be more rigid scrutiny of appropriations. Nor does he deal in generalizations on this subject, but specifically points to cases in which economy is possible. One instance mentioned is the abolition of the office of receiver of public moneys for United States land offices, and another relates to the public printing. In this connection Mr. Roosevelt says with great reason that "there is a constantly growing tendency to publish masses of unimportant information. It is probably not unfair to say that many tens of thousands of volumes are published at which no human being ever looks and for which there is no real demand whatever." While urging the importance of a more elastic currency he wisely avoids any attempt to show how it should be accomplished, doubtless recognizing the great danger that would attend any legislation except the most conservative. His statement of the nature of the currency problem is both succinct and accurate: "The evil does not consist in an inadequate volume of money, but in the rigidity of this volume, which does not respond as it should to the varying needs of the communities and seasons. Inflation must be avoided, but some provision should be made that would insure a larger volume of money during the fall and winter months than in the less active seasons of the year, so that the currency will contract against speculation and will expand for the needs of legitimate business." No student of economics can question a word of this presentation of the case, but a solution of the difficulty has thus far evaded the many wise men who have devoted much time to its study.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1905, all previous records of immigration were far eclipsed, and the arrival of over a million aliens has aroused much discussion regarding the possible difficulty of assimilating so many people of different tongues and ideas. Trades unionists have taken a most aggressive position on this subject, and Mr. Roosevelt gives it careful consideration. But those who favor stringent laws will receive little encouragement from the President's statement that "in dealing with this question it is unwise to depart from the old American tradition and to discriminate for or against any man who desires to come here and become a citizen, save on the ground of that man's fitness for citizenship." On this subject much light has been cast during the past week by the conference held in this city under the auspices of the National Civic Federation, which will be discussed at some length in the next issue of DUN'S REVIEW.

### DUN'S INDEX NUMBER.

Dun's Index Number of commodity prices proportioned to consumption was \$105.312 on December 1, against \$103.853 a month previous and \$100.554 on December 1, 1904. The gain of about 1½ per cent. during the month of November was somewhat unevenly distributed, although more or less increase was shown in six of the seven classes into which the articles are grouped. The only decrease occurred in breadstuffs, while there was a much larger advance in the miscellaneous class alone, chiefly because of higher prices for lumber and other building materials. This is a somewhat unusual event for the season and emphasizes the exceptional activity of structural work, which is being carried on later than customary. Compared with the corresponding date last year the general level of prices has risen almost 5 per cent., and this is also well distributed, although better crops have made a slightly lower level for breadstuffs, and there is also a small decrease in miscellaneous food products; sugar, hops and tea accounting for the downward tendency. Raw materials of the textile industries show especial strength, but thus far inflation has been avoided in the iron and steel industry, although minor metals are far above the quotations prevailing a year ago. Prices are now at the highest level in twenty-two years, yet this is to a great extent the natural result of unparalleled prosperity, which has enlarged consumption and produced brisk competition for all staple commodities. Moreover, the advance of the last few months is scarcely more than the proper allowance for the falling temperature.

November supplies an unusually large number of fluctuations in commodity prices, it being the exception when no change occurred, many articles that had been slow to share in the general tendency finally joining the procession. Of the seven general classes into which Dun's Index Number is divided, breadstuffs alone showed any net loss for the month, and this was chiefly due to the more normal position of corn, which naturally responded to the effect of definite assurance that a phenomenally large crop has been secured. Ever since the crop of 1901, which was scarcely more than 70 per cent. of normal, there has been a scarcity in the visible supply of corn, but, with the gradual improvement in traffic facilities at the interior, stocks of that staple are becoming ample for all domestic requirements, and it is probable that exports will return to the liberal movement of years immediately prior to the partial crop failure four seasons ago. Changes among the other cereals were less significant, the most important being slight advances in wheat and oats, although the yield of those grains is now known to be large. Receipts of live stock are still somewhat below requirements. This holds the general level of prices very firm, a slight net gain occurring in meats because of higher prices for live beef, lard and tallow, although there were small declines in live hogs and sheep, while mess pork fell 50 cents a barrel. The net rise in prices of dairy



\$14,530,847 in 1902, \$8,436,315 in 1901 and \$10,415,793 in 1900. The sales from January 1 to November 30 this year aggregated \$322,293,537, compared with \$384,205,099 in the same period last year.

**Dividends from Metal Mines.**—Twenty-one metal mines and works in the United States, with an outstanding capital of \$235,702,935, reported to the *Mining World* of Chicago, in November, dividends of \$1,433,862. Of the \$16,999,365 in dividends declared in the last eleven months, \$8,988,956 was contributed by three copper mines. Fifteen gold, silver and lead properties paid \$6,695,909 and three zinc properties paid \$1,314,500.

**Canadian Bounty on Lead.**—Owing to high prices in Great Britain, the Government of the Dominion of Canada has decided to abolish the bounty on pig lead produced from Canadian mines. When the bounty was granted the act of Parliament provided that when the price of pig lead in London was £12 10s. the bounty should be 75c. per 100 pounds. Any advance in the open market was to mean a reduction in the bounty, and the recent appreciation in price has entirely wiped it out.

**British Railroad Mileage.**—The total mileage of the railways of the United Kingdom at the close of last year was 22,634 miles. Ten years before, at the end of 1895, the total mileage was 21,174, showing a growth in the ten years of only 1,460 miles of line. Of this increase England contributed 975 miles, Scotland 362 miles and Ireland 123 miles. While two-thirds of the line mileage of the English roads is double track, the proportion in Scotland is less than one-half and in Ireland not quite one-third.

**Iron Ore Shipments.**—With the close of navigation on the Great Lakes on Tuesday, a season of the largest shipments of iron ore in the history of the Great Lakes was ended, the total of which was in the neighborhood of 33,000,000 tons. This year's estimated shipments compare with actual figures for previous years as follows: 1904, 21,900,000 tons; 1903, 24,281,595 tons; 1902, 27,571,121 tons; 1901, 20,593,537 tons; 1900, 19,059,393 tons; 1899, 18,251,804 tons, and 1898, 14,024,673 tons.

**New Incorporations.**—During the month of November there were 411 stock companies incorporated with the Secretary of State at Albany, with a total capitalization of \$31,913,000. A compilation made by the *Journal of Commerce* gives the total for the principal Eastern States at \$88,740,900, the smallest total of any month this year, and comparing with \$148,878,000 in October. The combined capital of the companies having \$1,000,000 or more capital incorporated in the Eastern States this year, including additions to capital by companies already in existence, amounts to \$1,555,196,111, as against \$1,003,242,200 for the full year 1904 and \$1,572,204,007 for 1903. The smaller companies incorporated this year figure for \$439,907,600, so this year's full total to November 30 is nearly \$2,000,000,000.

**Movement of Copper.**—The exports of copper in the month of November amounted to only 12,382 tons, the smallest in two years, explained by local copper producers as due to the enormous domestic consumption. It was generally thought that this year's exports of copper would break all records, but the poor showing of last month renders such a result extremely unlikely, as the shipments during the current month would have to total 27,000 tons to exceed last year's shipments. As such a total has not been reached since January, 1904, the possibility of this month's shipments reaching those figures seems very remote, particularly in view of the declining tendency noted in the shipments during the last three months. The total exports of copper for eleven months of this year amounted to 220,895 tons, as against 247,421 for the twelve months of 1904, 138,435 for the year 1903, and 164,451 for 1902.

**Union Pacific Report.**—The annual report of the Union Pacific Railroad, published this week, is particularly inter-

esting because of the dissolution of the Northern Securities Company and the amount of Great Northern and Northern Pacific stocks which are now held as free assets in the Union Pacific treasury. It appears that the Northern Securities stock sold by the Union Pacific in the open market, the amount of which has never heretofore been definitely known, was 71,500 shares. On June 30 there remained in the treasury 128,500 shares of Northern Securities stock, which has since either been sold or exchanged for Great Northern and Northern Pacific stock. In addition to these 128,500 shares of Northern Securities, the Union Pacific on the same date held 186,652 shares of Great Northern and 242,951 shares of Northern Pacific which had been received in exchange for other Northern Securities shares. The great bulk of these securities were held as free assets. These and the other free assets reported by the Union Pacific, including stocks and bonds in its own subsidiary companies, foot up \$178,561,841. This total does not take into account the market value of the securities owned by the road, which are listed only at their par value. If the present market value of Great Northern and Northern Pacific be substituted for their face value the value of the free assets would be increased by about \$70,000,000.

**Power of Victoria Falls.**—The *London Times* says that Reuter's Agency reports that the African Concessions Syndicate has been in consultation with the leading American and continental engineers and experts on the subject of the transmission of power from the Victoria Falls to the Witwatersrand. The authorities have unanimously expressed the opinion that the scheme is not only quite feasible, but would be commercially successful, especially as the climate of South Africa is one of the most suitable in the world for the transmission of power. There is no ice in the rivers to interfere with the working of the turbines, and no snow to break down the transmission lines. The extreme dryness of the climate is also greatly in favor of the project. The experts consider that there is absolutely no difficulty in the way of the scheme, so far as the distance of transmission is concerned. With reference to statements that the volume of water in the falls is not sufficient to produce the necessary power, it is pointed out that even in the driest season yet experienced there is sufficient water to produce 500,000 horsepower, while at present the Rand only consumes some 150,000 horsepower. At the falls there is an available head of about 330 feet, and if more than 500,000 horsepower were needed it could easily be obtained by cutting a canal, 15 to 20 miles in length, to a point lower down, where there would be a head of 1,000 feet, which would be sufficient to produce 1,000,000 horsepower. The construction of such a canal would present no difficulty. By the adoption of this scheme, it is further pointed out, power could be supplied to the mines more cheaply than in any other way. At present over £3,000,000 is spent annually on power on the Witwatersrand.

**Moody's Magazine.**—If subsequent numbers of this new financial monthly are as interesting as the initial issue that has just appeared, the reading public and the publishers will greatly benefit, and editor Byron W. Holt will receive merited commendation. Topics of monetary and banking interest are discussed by men thoroughly qualified, and the brief editorial paragraphs are as vigorous as they are succinct. This magazine is published by the same company that has been presenting Moody's Manual of Corporation Statistics. The opening issue is especially concerned with the gold supply and its effect on prices; several articles taking up different phases of the subject, and some of the diagrams are particularly clear and cogent in illustrating the points presented. The leading article embraces contributions by fourteen of the best known financial writers. Other interesting subjects discussed are "The Pitfalls of Speculation," "Unprecedented Prosperity," "Derivation of Capital," "Canadian Preferential Tariff," and "Common Mistakes in Accounting."

## Financial, Industrial and Commercial Conditions in Argentina.

[By our regular Correspondent at Buenos Aires.]

The conversion of the 6 per cent. internal loan has been successfully carried out, ninety per cent. of the holders accepting the terms offered by the government. The success of this financial operation has led the government to carry out the conversion of the 6 per cent. funding loan, external, which is the only foreign loan carrying a guarantee, that of the customs receipts. This operation will be effected at par on January 1st next, the amount to be redeemed being about £7,000,000. The money to carry out this operation has been obtained from European bankers at 4 per cent. interest, and it is probable that in a year's time a new loan will be floated at 4 per cent. in order to pay the bankers.

Another very important financial scheme presented to Congress by the government relates to the currency. At the present time the country has a paper currency, and as a result of the Conversion Law of 1899, the paper dollar of 100 cents has a fixed maximum value of 44 cents gold. This was done to prevent the rapid appreciation of the paper dollar, which if it had reached par would have meant serious financial and economical troubles for the country. The two units are not satisfactory, and so the government has presented a project for the creation of a new currency on a gold basis, the unit to be the "Argentino" equivalent in value to the "franc." The actual currency would be converted at the present rate of 44 cents gold to one paper dollar. This project, if accepted, is to come into force in 1909. In order to accustom people to it the law provides that three months after it is promulgated it shall be obligatory in all public documents, contracts, etc., to quote values in paper or gold dollars, with their equivalent in "Argentinos." This will naturally apply to all those firms, who may contract with the National Government for the supply of materials, etc., and therefore it will be necessary for merchants to make themselves acquainted with the project as soon as it becomes a law.

The prosperity of the country warrants these financial projects being brought forward. The advance and progress that has been made by the country during the past ten years can be gathered from the following statistics comparing conditions in the years 1894 and 1904. The population at the end of 1894 numbered 3,954,911, and at the end of 1904, 5,410,028—an increase of nearly 37 per cent. The public debt stood in 1894 at £102,000,000, and in 1904 at £86,900,000—a reduction of about 14 per cent. This was due to a considerable diminution in the internal debt, which had been reduced from £40,500,000 to £11,156,000; while the external debt, which stood at £58,200,000, had increased to £74,154,000. The public debt per head was £26 ls. 2d. in 1894, and in 1904 it stood at £16 ls. 3d. Although the debt was considerably decreased, the annual service was increased and stood in 1904 at £5,710,000, as against £3,345,082. The annual charge per head for interest and redemption was 16s. 11d. in 1894 and £1 ls. 1d. in 1904.

The total amount actually raised on loans (including loans entirely repaid) was £99,954,000 in 1894 and £135,731,546 in 1904. The public income of the country, excluding revenue from loans, stood at £6,829,000 in 1894 and £16,607,000 in 1904, an increase of 143 per cent. These figures speak for themselves. This large increase was principally composed of the revenue derived from customs duties, which produced £5,166,000 in 1894 and £8,511,000 in 1904; while the total revenue from taxation was £6,417,000 and £12,156,000, respectively.

The revenue per head was £1 14s. 6d. in 1894 and £3 1s. 4d. in 1904, and the revenue per head from taxation £1 12s. 5d. and £2 4s. 11d., respectively. Whereas 93.97 per cent. of the total revenue was raised by taxation in 1894, this was reduced to 73.19 per cent. in 1904.

The expenditure has increased almost equally with the revenue, standing at £8,002,000 in 1894, as against £17,156,000 for 1904, an increase of 114 per cent. The expenditure per head for the total expenditure was £2 11d. and £3 3s. 5d., respectively, and on the army and navy 7s. 10d. and 11s. 6d.

Imports in 1894 were valued at £18,557,000 and in 1904 at £37,561,000—an increase of about 100 per cent.; and exports, which were valued at £20,337,000 in 1894, were valued at £52,831,000 in 1904—an increase of 158 per cent. These figures speak volumes for the vitality of the country. Its power of production continues to increase, as does its consuming capacity.

There is yet much to be done in the development of the country, and the government has recently obtained the sanction of Congress for the carrying out of public works, such as railways, ports, harbors, irrigating, drainage and water works, to the extent of forty millions sterling. These works are to be spread over a term of years, and will be paid for either in bonds or in cash, if the National Treasury will permit the outlay. All these public works, together with the works being carried out by private enterprise, will mean work for one and all, and may be the means of inducing more immigrants to come into the country.

The country is so underpopulated at present that the laboring classes can command their own prices. This being the case, strikes have recently become the order of the day, and at the present time all the dock hands are striking for higher wages. When they went out last year they obtained eight hours and a rise in wages, and if the present strike had not been brought about there would have been one in January next, when the men meant to ask for a seven-hour day and increased pay.

This labor question is one of the most serious, if not the most serious, question yet to be solved by the government. The professional agitator is at the bottom of most of the trouble. The loss that the country would suffer by a general strike of dock and railway hands during the months of January and February would be disastrous. The harvest would stand a chance of being lost, and, as the outlook at the present time for both wheat and linseed is excellent, the thought that this may be partially lost on account of the labor troubles is not a pleasant one.

This year the area under wheat stands at 14,000,000 acres, an increase of 14½ per cent. on last year's area, and the linseed area stands at 2,500,000 acres, a decrease of 5½ per cent. The last wheat crop amounted to 100,000,000 bushels, and if the harvest turns out as well as it now promises the crop should increase another 25,000,000 bushels. The outlook for the maize crop is not promising, as the locusts are gradually coming southward, and although everything is being done to destroy them, they are in such numbers that their complete destruction is almost impossible.

Foreign manufacturers, merchants and traders in general would do well to have their trade marks registered in this country. The Argentine law on this subject is a most liberal one, and penalties for infringement of trade marks are severe. One point, however, must not be lost sight of by those who register, and that is that nothing should ap-

pear on a mark that is not fully justified. For example, no medals should appear as having been won at exhibitions if such be not the case, nor should any misleading information be contained in the mark or label registered. A short time ago a case was before the courts concerning an imitation of a registered label for a certain brand of spirits. The defendant claimed that the mark of the plaintiff contained mention of certain exhibition awards which had not been won. The plaintiff, however, was able to prove that his brand of spirits had been awarded the prizes in question and he won his case. More recently a case involving one of the best known mineral waters was tried. The owner of the mark brought an action against a local manufacturer, who had adopted the mark in question for a water made by him. The case, in the first instance, has been decided in favor of the defendant, who pleaded that the water in question, which, according to the labels, came from a spring in Prussia, was in reality made in London. An appeal has been made, however, and it is now necessary to await the decision of the higher courts. It would appear that the water does come from the springs in Prussia, but it is bottled in London and other European centers. If the plaintiff is able to prove this and the court finds in his favor, it will be most important to many manufacturers, who at present ship out their products in bulk to this country and then make them up in this market.

Congress is not yet through with the Custom House law for 1906. The bill, as approved by the Chamber of Deputies, contains several reductions in various articles and the complete suppression of the 4 per cent. export tax on pastoral products. The Senate, however, has been more liberal, as it made still further reductions in import duties, this being more especially the case with paper for books. During the debate severe attacks were made upon several local industries, one Senator going so far as to state that the only home product entering in some protected industries was the water of the River Parana. This is the real truth, and is especially the case in the manufacture of paper. Although the country has woods which are suitable for the manufacture of pulp, all the raw material is imported. This industry is protected by very high duties. Made-up books are, however, imported duty free, and one of the leading daily papers, which publishes a large number of historical and other works, has been obliged to have the books published in Spain, as, with the cost of labor and the high duty on paper, it is cheaper to have everything done in Spain than in Buenos Aires. The printing industry is the principal sufferer, and that trade rightly deserves to be protected as a national industry. The lithographic industry is also in a bad way, as all labels, show signs, etc., are admitted either duty free or a very low duty is charged, which makes it impossible for local firms to compete with the imported articles.

The Argentine Rural Society held their annual show during the month of September, and it was the best that has ever been held in the country. Prices for stock ruled exceptionally high, and the champion Durham bull fetched a world's record price, having been sold for £3,493. A week after this sale an imported bull, which had won the championship at the Royal Agricultural Society's Show in England, was sold by auction and realized £300 less than the Argentine champion. Authorities on the question state that it is doubtful if any country in the world could equal, let alone excel, the magnificent collection of Durhams to be seen at the show this year. The general average was distinctly higher than hitherto, and the results of the big prices paid for pedigreed stock during the past few years in the Argentine auction mart are now manifest.

The boom in real estate continues, and not only are city properties eagerly sought after, but also camp lands in the national territories. A sale of fiscal land was recently held for properties in the far South, and the average price realized was six shillings per acre. No single purchaser could buy more than 30,000 acres, and the property had to be

worked and populated within a certain period. The total sales realized almost one and three-quarter million sterling.

Two exhibitions are soon to be held in this city. One will be the British Argentine Exhibition which is being organized by the English Literary Society preparatory to the centenary exhibition to be held in 1910. It is proposed to show by figures, plans and exhibits in general what British capital and commerce have done for this country. The exhibition will be a most interesting one, and the information now being collected will be most valuable and will open the eyes of many to what has been done and is being done in Argentina. The second exhibition is being prepared by a representative of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, who has brought out goods from about fifty different manufacturers. This should result in increased import of British goods, and the idea is certainly one which should be followed by manufacturers in other countries who are desirous of increasing their trade with Buenos Aires.

Some idea of the vastness of the City of Buenos Aires with its million odd of inhabitants can be gathered from the following figures recently published, as they show more than anything else how the city is progressing. It is estimated that the number of vehicles of every description to be found in its streets every day, principally within a two miles radius, number some twenty-five thousand. As regards buildings, there are six thousand at present in course of construction, but of these at least two thousand are stopped for want of bricks. Only a short time ago bricks could be obtained at about £1 a thousand, but to-day they are quoted at £2.10 to £3, and even at these high prices the greatest difficulty is experienced in obtaining anything like a supply.

Capital continues to flow into the country. Industrial enterprises are daily coming upon the market, and the necessary capital is subscribed several times over. The railway companies are finding all the money that they require for extensions, such is the faith placed by investors in Argentina to-day and its future prospects. No better time than the present could be found for those who are desirous of either opening up or increasing their trade connections here. Proper representatives, with a knowledge of the language must, however, be sent out. The field is open to all; the consuming capacity is increasing yearly, and, what is much more to the point, the people have plenty of money to spend.

#### TIN CONSUMPTION EXCEEDS PRODUCTION.

An interesting comparison has recently been prepared by Daniel W. Williams, the American Consul at Cardiff, Wales, relating to the production and consumption of tin. Mr. Williams says that it is difficult to secure accurate statistics relating to the production of tin, but the following table showing the output by countries for the last three years is approximately correct:

Country.	1902. Tons.	1903. Tons.	1904. Tons.
Malay States .....	53,756	54,797	58,657
Banca and Billiton .....	18,765	20,000	14,638
Bolivia .....	10,150	9,500	9,200
England .....	3,950	4,150	4,282
Australia .....	3,206	4,991	5,082
Miscellaneous .....	350	395	384
Total .....	90,177	93,893	92,243

According to these figures the production of tin is almost at a standstill, and there was an actual falling off in the output during 1904. On the other hand the consumption is on the increase, and the accepted estimate for 1904 is as follows: United States, 38,000 tons; Great Britain, 15,898 tons; Germany, 14,832 tons; all other countries, 25,525 tons; total, 94,755 tons.

Thus the consumption for the year was 2,512 tons in excess of the output. Ordinarily the tin consumed is lost forever, but the increasing demand and the threatened diminution of the available stock has given rise to a new industry, the detinning of tin scrap. The statistics show that the United States consumes over 40 per cent. of all the tin produced, and it should lead in this recovery of tin from scrap.

## SALE OF DURANGO'S "IRON MOUNTAIN."

The famous "Iron Mountain of Durango"—Cerro del Mercado—which is situated within one mile of the city of Durango, Mexico, has just been purchased by the United States Steel Corporation which, it is reported, will remodel and enlarge the National Iron Works of Durango and erect mills, rolling plants, etc. This mountain of iron has long been regarded as one of the natural curiosities of the Mexican Republic and a thing like it is known elsewhere except in Northern Sweden where there is another hill of iron ore, which, however, is not so rich as the Mexican mountain and is now being removed to feed smelters.

This mountain was discovered by Gines Vasquez del Mercado in 1562 and its appellation of Cerro del Mercado still preserves his name. This hill which is 4,800 feet long by 1,100 feet in width and 640 feet in height is almost a solid mass of minerals averaging about seventy per cent of metal and from which could be extracted more than 300,000,000 tons of solid iron; this only to the level of the plain, beneath which it probably extends to an unknown depth. It is estimated that this is a source of wealth greater than all the gold and silver mines worked since the days of the Spanish conquest or that may hereafter be worked.

Writing in 1830 Baron Humboldt, who did not quite reach Durango in his explorations, but who had seen samples from this mass of iron, described it as "that enormous mass of malleable iron and nickel whose composition is identical with that of the aerolite which fell near Agram, in Hungary, in 1751. It is asserted that this mass at Durango weighs nearly 1,900 myriagrams, or 400 times as much as the aerolite discovered by M. Rubin de Celis in Olumpa, Tucuman." Humboldt evidently thought this might be the world's greatest aerolite. This geologic phenomenon has long excited the curiosity of mineralogists but thus far has served no other purpose; for the iron mills in the vicinity, though possessing good machinery and in excellent condition are of such limited capacity that all they have done was to supply the needs of their narrow field of operations.

There are very few deposits at present known where the metal is found so nearly pure as on the Mercado hill. Moreover, its iron in different degrees of oxidation is of the very best quality for manufacturing purposes, since ores of that class, on being reduced, yield a metal that is never brittle, as is the case when in the form of sulphides. The iron is also magnetic to a high degree and its power is greater when the grain is fine. This may delay fusion but the result is an excellent wrought iron, with none of the inconveniences caused when earthy substances are mixed with ore.

The fuel question has been the one great obstacle against the development of this rich deposit of ore. The American company which has been operating a blast furnace and rolling mill at the base of the mountain used a mixture of coal and coke but the coke formerly obtained from the United States was made very expensive by the long railroad haul and the project became a paying one only when the company secured coke from the Sabinas coal properties in the State of Coahuila at relatively more reasonable prices. The company has been turning out not only nails and bar iron, but also hoisting machinery, stoves, etc., but all these operations have made only a small hole in one end of the mountain. To complete this enterprise a steel plant has been required and this will now undoubtedly be erected. Just at the foot of the iron mountain the proprietor of the general store for the employés of the furnace and rolling mill has had for some time the sign "Pittsburg," which will perhaps become prophetic, as here are all the conditions for the growth of a small Pittsburg on Mexican soil and, moreover, the purchasers of this mountain of iron are capitalists from Pittsburg, U. S. A.

## DRY GOODS AND WOOLENS.

Not since the Sully boom has the buying trade of the country been confronted with such a market for general lines of staple cottons as that which exists to-day. As a matter of fact, although purchasers may have been obliged to pay slightly more when cotton was at 17 cents than is necessary to-day, yet it is probably safe to say that the volume of business at that time at the top of the market was infinitesimal as compared with the business which has been accomplished on a high basis since cotton radically advanced. The steadiness which has developed since the establishment of the new price levels on cotton has confirmed sellers in their determination to secure higher prices, and for the first day or two there was a general reluctance to name new quotations, but by Wednesday sellers were ready to establish a price basis which should in some degree be commensurate with the new values established on raw cotton. While prices are considered radical, it is a matter of supply and demand which will regulate the sale of merchandise, so that the restriction may be much less than might be ordinarily caused were it not for the general and unusual scarcity of merchandise for nearby delivery.

Lower grades of men's wear have been opened in certain instances at last year's prices. Where cotton is not the component material of chief value, advances have been secured. The situation on worsted yarns is a very serious one with spinners. Dress goods lines are being reordered, but no development regarding new fabrics has taken place.

### COTTON GOODS.

Radical advances were only to be supposed as the result of a crop estimate of practically 10,000,000 bales. While at this writing open advances on lines whose brands are well known, such as Fruits and Lonsdales, have not taken place, on brown cottons there has been a general upward move. In view of the fact that there are practically no goods on hand, values might just as well be put at almost any price. On heavy sheetings and drills prices have been advanced from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent, and sellers are refusing to grant nearby deliveries. Export trade is practically a negligible quantity, although a small business is reported in certain heavy goods on which prices were quoted before the crop report was issued. The higher range of values has at length had the tendency of provoking a more liberal demand on light weight goods up to 10.50 sheetings. These, however, with almost anything down to 4 yards, have become very scarce, and buyers are unable to secure their requirements in the majority of instances. The bag trade is still inquiring for goods, but bag constructions are also scarce. In print cloths, naturally, there is a refusal on the part of manufacturers to grant prices which prevailed a week ago, and while there is no radical advance in the actual selling prices over a week ago buyers find it impossible to operate on the old basis. Regulars are nominal at 3½ cents, though nothing could be obtained at this figure were there any demand in the market. There is, however, practically no trading on this grade. Wide 64s are now firm at 4½ cents, while 39-inch 68x72s have sold at 4½ cents. Napped goods are open for another season in certain instances, but many lines are still withheld from the market because of the uncertainty as to the proper basis of prices. Certain advances on staple as well as fancy prints have taken place and many discounts have been shortened. Printers, however, do not seem to show much interest in the cloth market, and are not likely to do so until there is more of a margin between cloths and prints. Bleached goods are held more firmly, but buyers' operations are conservative, though continuous.

The following is an approximate range of quotations: Brown sheetings, standard eastern, 7½c. to 7¾c.; southern, 7½c. to 7¾c.; 3 yards, 7c. to 7½c.; 4-yards, 6½c. to 6¾c.; drills, standard, 7½c. to 7¾c.; bleached muslins, standard 4-4, 6½c. to 6¾c.; kid-finished cambrics, 4½c. to 4¾c.

**WOOLEN GOODS.**

While certain low grade goods in men's wear have been opened, no general disposition to show lines for next year is evident, as the conditions surrounding the raw material are too uncertain. On lines of the satinnet order which have been opened prices are practically on last year's basis, with few exceptions, which show at the outside 2 cents advance. It is a very difficult matter to secure free trading on these lines if they are put out of a certain range for the clothier, and consequently the effort has been to keep them as close to the level of last year as possible. On the slightly better grades of wool goods the manufacturer is in more or less of a quandary, and, considering the unsuccessful season through which he has just passed, does not look for much brighter things for the coming season. Worsteds manufacturers are making preparations to increase their capacity for the coming selling period. It has been evident during the current season that the demand for worsteds has been larger than could be supplied by the looms running on this class of goods, and outside help has frequently been secured. Whether the preparations which have been made are too extensive remains to be seen. At present the outlook is for a very favorable season, and already considerable business has been accomplished in a quiet way. The worsted yarn situation is a puzzling one for the manufacturer, and many are wondering where they are to obtain their supplies. The overcoating market for next season has not opened as yet and the majority prefer to await developments.

**THE YARN MARKET.**

In cotton yarns the situation is more or less chaotic and buyers are beginning to realize the possibilities that exist. The majority are unable to obtain deliveries, and complain that unless there is some improvement in this direction they will be compelled to close their plants temporarily. Prices are anywhere from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cents up. Worsteds yarns are very scarce and sold ahead to unusual lengths. Wool yarns are moving more slowly at steady prices. Linen and jute yarns are in firm position and deliveries are backward.

**MARKET FOR WOOL.**

Quotations have not altered since the month opened, and the closing days of the London auction sale produced spirited competition for all offerings. Eastern markets are barely steady, owing to the small demand from manufacturers, but stocks at the Far West are so light that there is little prospect of any serious reaction, especially as the mills are known to have large contracts for goods, and must soon exhibit more interest in the raw material market.

**THE BOSTON MARKET.**

BOSTON.—The wool market is still generally quiet, but the closing out of some large lines of Ohio fleeces has swelled the volume of the week's transactions. Lower prices had to be accepted on the latter, but a burden has been removed from the situation. Stocks of territory and other domestic wools are much broken and sizable lines of any one grade are difficult to find. With the recent price readjustments the feeling in the market is better, and holders are confident that the bottom has been reached. Foreign advices continue very strong and London and Australian values are above the Boston parity. Purchases in Australia to date are but a third of what was bought there up to the same time last year for this country. The week's receipts are 1,289,717 pounds, and deliveries 3,574,967 pounds.

**RAW AND REFINED SUGAR.**

Indifference of sellers has given a decidedly firm tone to the market for sugar, small offerings of old crop Cuban indicating limited supplies and confidence in quotations. Refined grades are also quiet, new business being insignificant and withdrawals small on old contracts. Prices are without variation.

**IRON AND STEEL.**

New business comes forward steadily and the level of prices is little changed, Bessemer pig iron rising slightly, but most figures are the same as a week ago. The leading producer reports daily new tonnage of business far in excess of capacity, so that orders must be gradually running further into the new year. Steel rails provide a prominent feature of the new business, heavy domestic orders being supplemented by inquiries from South America and Australia. An advance in quotations of light rails brings that section more in line with the standard weights. Structural mills are falling further behind as new contracts are received, notably from the leading railway systems for terminals and bridges. It is rumored that German and Belgian mills are getting a lot of orders for structural shapes because of the impossibility of securing prompt deliveries from domestic producers. Some seasonable curtailment of building operations does not appear to have relieved the situation materially as yet. Pig iron markets are quiet, and the situation is somewhat easier, because of a downward tendency in coke, owing to the unprecedented activity of ovens and ample car supply.

**MINOR METALS.**

No check has appeared to the upward tendency of prices, copper having sold on the basis of 18c. for spot, although demand is limited to urgent needs. Exports have fallen behind last year's, despite the liberal excess for the first six months, and some recent Chinese buying for prompt forwarding has been shifted to distant shipment. Tin has risen at London to the highest point of recent years, and the local market responded readily when visible supply figures showed that 13,174 tons on December 1 compared with 14,412 a year ago. Still higher premiums are now asked for spot lead.

**THE PITTSBURG MARKET.**

PITTSBURG.—Sales of pig iron this week amounted to about 4,500 tons. The market has quieted down somewhat, a usual condition at this season. It is reported that the leading interest is again in the market for about 50,000 tons, for delivery during the first quarter next year. Sales of foundry and forge irons have been in small lots, but prices have not weakened. Basic iron is quoted at \$18.10 to \$18.35; No. 2 Northern Foundry, \$18.35; Standard Bessemer, \$18.10 to \$18.35, and grey forge, \$16.85 to \$17.35. Ore prices for next year are 50c. higher than this season's quotations, and are as follows: Old Range Bessemer, \$4.25; Mesaba Bessemer, \$4, and Old Range non-Bessemer, \$3.70. Production of coke in the Connellsville region continues at a high rate, shipments this week being 278,311 tons, against 268,203 tons last week; from the Masontown field, 68,628 tons, against 67,300 tons for the preceding week. Furnace coke is quoted firm at \$3 to \$3.50, and foundry \$3.50 to \$4. Ferro-manganese is scarce, owing to internal troubles in Russia, and consumers urgently solicit small lots at \$125 a ton in car load lots; under normal conditions it sells at about \$52. The muck bar market is very strong and recent transactions have been at \$32 per ton, while the price a few weeks ago was not more than \$28.50. Muck bar is one of the departments of the market that has strong characteristics of a "boom." There is considerable delay in the delivery of billets, sheet, and tin bars. There is a fair inquiry for raw steel, but there are few transactions, as the material is scarce, and the billet mills are steadily occupied in taking care of specifications previously made. Bessemer billets are quoted at \$26 to \$27; open hearth \$27 to \$28, and sheet bars at \$27.50. Rail orders continue to reach the mills, and it is expected that after the opening of the new year considerable additional business will be placed by the railroads. Standard section rails are quoted at \$28, while light rails, from 16 to 40 pounds, are quoted at \$26 to \$30. There is a strong demand for light rails, and prices show an upward tendency. The demand for plates is not as strong, but mills are loaded with business and specifications are heavy. Each week de-

velops new business, but single orders are not large. Tank plates one-quarter inch thick, 6½ to 100 inches, are quoted at \$1.60, f. o. b. Pittsburgh. There is some talk in the market that the price will be advanced at the next pool meeting about \$2 a ton. In structural materials a fair amount of business was placed, but the demand is falling off somewhat, as usual. Premiums are paid for small lots for prompt shipment, but regular prices are: Beams and channels up to 15 inches, \$1.70, and over 15 inches, \$1.80. A new structural mill in the Pittsburgh district has been put in operation, and some business booked by the older plants has been transferred to the new one in order to relieve the congested condition of the mills at this time. Fabricating companies are receiving business in a fairly liberal manner and are calling on the mills regularly for material.

### THE GRAIN MARKETS.

A firm tone has prevailed in the cereal markets, export demand providing the chief element of support. Western receipts have been liberal, but there is much difficulty in arranging shipments, and the short account has covered because of uneasiness regarding the making of deliveries. Latest statistics of Russian exports have been surprisingly heavy, but this is believed to be on account of urgent forwarding because of the approaching close of navigation, and an early decreased movement is expected. Northwestern flour mills continue busy, but there is no effort to force domestic business owing to the urgency of export demand. While wheat shipments abroad in the last few years have made poor exhibits, the outgo of flour has attained remarkable proportions. Some producers have advanced patents ten cents, and it is increasingly difficult to secure car lots at old figures.

#### GRAIN MOVEMENT.

Despite insufficient railway facilities and prohibitive insurance rates on the Lakes owing to recent losses by storms, wheat receipts at primary markets have not fallen much behind those of the same week last year, but there is a considerable decrease in the corn movement, although the crop is undoubtedly much larger. Shipments abroad show a liberal increase for both cereals and especially flour.

The grain movement each day is given in the following table, with the week's total, and similar figures for 1904. The total for the last two weeks is also given, with comparative figures for last year. The receipts of wheat at western cities since July 1, both years, are appended, with latest figures of exports:

	WHEAT.		FLOUR.	OATS.	
	Western Receipts.	Atlantic Exports.	Atlantic Exports.	Western Receipts.	Atlantic Exports.
Friday .....	1,060,278	187,476	6,204	719,370	369,143
Saturday .....	825,945		35,409	531,150	292,056
Monday .....	917,424	447,928	44,392	772,674	527,319
Tuesday .....	1,152,314	91,126	19,740	632,692	188,016
Wednesday .....	722,544	396,089	30,784	557,321	340,884
Thursday .....	726,033	44,000	64,177	527,320	213,614
Total .....	5,404,538	1,166,619	200,706	3,740,527	1,931,032
" last year .....	5,797,242	143,557	56,898	5,868,643	359,304
Two weeks .....	11,562,516	2,106,024	327,850	7,291,759	3,339,163
" last year .....	12,638,069	339,437	194,245	10,708,465	723,376

The total western receipts of wheat for the crop year thus far amount to 144,709,471 bushels, against 131,092,674 bushels during the previous year. Atlantic exports of wheat, including flour, this week were 2,069,796 bushels, against 1,511,553 last week and 399,598 a year ago. Pacific exports were 979,465, against nothing last week and 565,032 last year. Other exports were 206,107, against 175,938 last week and 137,225 a year ago. Total exports since July 1 of wheat, flour included, were 37,527,814 bushels, compared with 22,975,855 bushels last year, official returns being used up to October 31, and Dun's reports added for subsequent weeks.

#### THE WHEAT MARKET.

A further increase of 986,000 bushels was reported last week in the domestic visible supply, keeping the total slightly above the same time last year, 36,943,000 bushels comparing with 36,860,000. World's exports were 13,787,000 bushels, against 12,835,000 in the previous week and 10,494,000 a year ago. India was the only nation showing a

decrease compared with last year, while the trade was again surprised by a large gain in shipments from Russia, despite the disturbed conditions there. On the whole, weekly statistics were again calculated to depress prices, but their publication was followed by slightly stronger markets, especially at the Northwest, where there was a good cash demand. Chicago option trading showed the influence of the leading operator for the long account, fully 2,000,000 bushels being purchased on Wednesday alone.

#### THE CORN TRADE

The domestic visible supply increased 817,000 bushels last week, making the total 6,393,000 bushels, against 3,181,000 bushels at the corresponding date last year. Total shipments from all surplus countries were 3,189,000 bushels, against 4,147,000 in the previous week and 3,068,000 bushels a year ago. Compared with last year's figures a large loss in outgo from Argentina was more than neutralized by the increased shipments from the United States. Light arrivals at primary markets and poor grading, together with a splendid export demand at the seaboard, encouraged the speculative long account, and options were again lifted moderately above the position a year ago.

#### MEATS AND DAIRY PRODUCTS.

Stocks of lard in all positions on December 1 were reported as 185,751 tierces by the N. K. Fairbank Company, against 243,262 a month previous and 189,690 a year ago. The loss during November was in Chicago stocks of prime steam and European holdings. Stocks of provisions in Chicago increased almost 8,000,000 pounds during November. Milk was advanced to 3½ cents net to shipper in the 26-cent zone, which is equivalent to \$1.71 per 40-quart can delivered here. It is difficult to get first class fresh eggs and the usual high prices of the season prevail. Refrigerator eggs are abundant and steadier, although there is not a free movement from first hands. Colder weather is also having a natural influence on the butter market, and medium grades have the additional support of a good foreign demand.

#### THE CHICAGO MARKET.

CHICAGO.—The demand for breadstuffs continues of good volume and there has been a responsive rise in values, but quotations for flour are unchanged. The absence of foreign inquiry for wheat continues, yet this factor has less adverse effect upon prices than formerly. Millers have bought fair quantities for present requirement and the output of flour increased, notwithstanding stocks on December 1 exhibit only a moderate decrease as compared with a year ago, the total—not including Minneapolis—being 769,000 barrels, against 825,000 barrels last year. Compared with the closings a week ago the December options show a gain of 1½ cents in oats, 1½ cents in corn and 2½ cents in wheat. No. 2 red winter wheat sold up to 87½ cents a bushel, an advance of 2½ cents for the week. Stocks in store again show further accumulation, except oats and barley. Weather conditions remained favorable for marketing, and arrivals here probably would have enlarged had it not been for the Thanksgiving holiday interruption of shipments. The total movement of grain at this port aggregated 9,633,802 bushels, against 10,165,419 bushels last week and 8,444,389 bushels a year ago. The receipts were only 1.6 per cent. over those of last year, while the shipments increased 29.9 per cent. Eastbound rail shipments of flour were 113,095 barrels, against 98,401 barrels last week and 94,497 barrels a year ago. The Illinois report of winter wheat and rye shows good growing conditions. Detailed stocks and the movement of grain compare in bushels as follows:

	Stocks	This Week.	Previous Week.	Year Ago.
Wheat .....	9,129,000	8,812,200	3,867,000	
Corn .....	1,899,000	1,513,000	1,328,000	
Oats .....	12,648,000	13,205,000	9,104,000	
Rye .....	649,000	646,000	413,000	
Barley .....	251,000	352,000	138,000	
Receipts of grain .....	4,655,972	5,801,748	4,581,560	
Shipments of grain .....	4,977,830	4,363,671	3,862,829	

Live stock arrivals aggregated 318,538 head, against 352,005 head last week and 415,917 a year ago. The

shortage of fresh supplies caused a firmer market, sheep advancing 25 cents a hundredweight and hogs 7½ cents. Choice beeves were unchanged at \$6.75, the highest quotation this season. Hog products remain in satisfactory request for both domestic and export account, lard being up 7½ cents, pork 2½ cents, and ribs 5 cents lower. Eastbound rail shipments of provisions, 26,193 tons, compare with 31,615 tons last week and 25,677 tons a year ago. The packing houses are running steadily, but little progress is made in accumulating additional supplies. The December statement of provision stocks in store totaled 74,384,236 pounds, against 66,692,092 pounds the previous month and 66,433,873 pounds on December 1, 1904.

#### THE MINNEAPOLIS FLOUR OUTPUT.

MINNEAPOLIS.—There was a considerable decrease in the quantity of flour produced this week on account of ice interfering with the operation of the mills. Orders booked, however, about equaled the output and local stocks of flour remain about stationary. Foreign demand slackened somewhat, but domestic sales hold up well and the mills have had little opportunity to catch up on back orders. Prices are firm and follow wheat fluctuations closely. Cereals and feed are firm.

#### HIDES AND LEATHER.

The hide market at present is in a resting position. The large sales during October and November, taking hides ahead, according to varieties, from December to February salting, supplied the wants of the larger tanners, and packers at present are closely sold up and ahead, and are not pushing business. The position of the market is rather easy, but not any more so than the deterioration of the quality of present takeoff hides warrants, and the principal buyers do not anticipate any further declines during the winter months than will any more than make up for the poorer quality of offerings. Native steers and cows are somewhat easier, with sales of light native cows at 14½c. as against the previous rate of 14½c. Moderate transactions in packer branded hides have been at unchanged figures. Country hides hold steady on the basis of 13½c. for buffs for prompt delivery, but sales of buffs for future shipment have been made at 13½c. and down to 13c. for late January forwardings. Foreign dry hides are unchanged, with prices well maintained at the recent advances. The European markets are decidedly strong and the auction sales in Paris the first of the month resulted in sharp advances, with light cow hides 9 per cent. higher than a month before.

The leather situation is decidedly strong all around, although business at present is not particularly active. Many buyers are well supplied in consequence of recent heavy purchases, and those who did not buy in accordance with their full requirements are finding it difficult to secure leather for reasonably prompt shipment, owing to the scant supplies. The principal happening of the week has been the returning to this country of sole leather shipped to Japan during the recent war. One lot of 20,000 sides of hemlock sole arrived in Boston from Japan early this week, and it is understood that this lot is not all that will be returned. It is known that this leather is a part of the purchase over which there was a dispute, and it is reported that the 20,000 sides will be sold for the account of the original purchaser. At any rate, the leather could not be returned here at a more opportune time, as tanners are filling domestic orders with difficulty and the prices on low grade hemlock sole are fully 3c. higher than at the time the Japanese sales were effected. Large tanners are very independent regarding deliveries at present, and are not allowing buyers to take stock bought as they see fit, but only at the convenience of the sellers. The strength of the packer hide market looks assured. The large sole leather corporation has purchased one packer's take off butt brands and Colorados ahead to February 1st, at 14 and 13½c., respectively, to be used, it is understood, at their western harness leather tannery, as native steers are too high for harness leather purposes, and branded too high for sole leather.

#### BOOTS AND SHOES.

New England manufacturers' salesmen in western and southern territory are sending in encouraging reports as to existing conditions among the wholesalers of the sections covered. The volume of orders received by them as yet has not amounted to large proportions, but there is a steady influx of supplementary contracts which in some cases are for delivery as late as April and May. The price question is not a disturbing element, as on the whole jobbers throughout the country are carrying limited stocks and as a rule are ready to take an opportunity to replenish even at producers terms. The makers of staple lines of footwear have a large reserve of contracts on hand, which keeps manufacturers' views decidedly strong, and a further readjustment of values is still talked of on fall lines for 1906. As yet, however, sampling for this run has not yet been heavy, and the opinion is generally entertained that conditions to come will largely determine as to whether shoes will again increase in price. The local jobbing trade is active, with a brisk demand for holiday specialties from city retailers.

#### THE BOSTON MARKET.

BOSTON.—Shoe trading is active with jobbers and manufacturers. Road salesmen are turning in a large volume of orders and report that buyers take more kindly to the higher prices than had been anticipated. The market is very firm and the factories very busy. Shipments for the week are 98,173 cases and for the year since January 1, aggregate 4,673,010 cases. There is a continued good demand for the various kinds of upper leather at full previous prices. Stocks are small and receipts are quickly absorbed. Sole leather maintains the recent advance.

#### COAL AND COKE.

Anthracite coal goes freely into consumption, and retail dealers at many points insist on the customary winter advance in prices, but wholesale rates are unaltered and collieries are producing freely. There is a prompt demand for all offerings of soft coal, quotations exhibiting none of the weakness that was conspicuous early in the season. Connellsville coke ovens continue to establish new weekly records of output, and it is estimated that the year's yield may exceed 16,000,000 tons. At any rate, it is certain to eclipse all previous high-water marks. Railway facilities are ample, and the free movement makes prices slightly easier at \$2.75 to \$2.90 for Connellsville furnace, while outside ovens quote \$2.40.

#### FOREIGN TRADE AT LEADING PORTS.

With the single exception of New York, all four of the leading Atlantic ports report gains in foreign trade returns for the last week, as compared with the corresponding period of 1904. Exports from this city were slightly below the average for recent preceding weeks and show a loss of about two and a half million dollars from the figures for a year ago. Imports also decreased in comparison with recent preceding totals, but are still heavy and exceeded the movement in 1904 by over \$1,000,000. Shipments of merchandise from Boston expanded sharply, largely surpassing last year's output, while imports continue to make favorable comparisons with that date. A similar situation prevailed at Philadelphia, and at Baltimore exports were abnormally heavy, being far in excess of last year's total, which was also above the average. Receipts gained substantially, but the movement a year ago was comparatively insignificant. Both exports and imports at New Orleans compare favorably with recent preceding weeks.

The following table gives the exports and imports at the leading Atlantic ports for the last week and for the year thus far, together with the corresponding movements in 1904:

	EXPORTS.			
	—Week—		—Forty-nine Weeks—	
	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.
New York .....	\$11,303,071	\$13,724,076	\$517,915,263	\$471,857,685
Boston .....	2,387,054	1,159,263	81,432,754	72,627,861
Philadelphia .....	2,162,568	1,132,864	55,936,838	53,676,319
Baltimore .....	4,165,450	2,108,052	86,680,200	74,396,561
New Orleans .....	2,952,699	.....	*117,341,656	.....
	IMPORTS.			
	—Week—		—Forty-nine Weeks—	
	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.
New York .....	\$13,768,520	\$12,649,125	\$642,694,516	\$572,966,852
Boston .....	1,710,526	1,403,593	101,053,016	93,244,376
Philadelphia .....	1,317,207	1,106,410	76,262,263	50,070,194
Baltimore .....	562,488	181,710	21,383,634	16,341,459
New Orleans .....	449,560	.....	*31,131,459	.....

\*Forty-eight weeks.

The imports at New York exceeding \$100,000 in value were: Furs, \$279,945; walnuts, \$175,222; precious stones, \$596,168; undressed hides, \$758,514; champagne, \$141,869; metal goods, \$135,048; steel, \$105,695; tin, \$757,018; cheese, \$128,311; cocoa, \$208,374; coffee, \$836,291; fish, \$107,428; india rubber, \$622,713; sugar, \$649,319; tea, \$133,795; tobacco, \$399,917; wool, \$254,585. Imports of dry goods amounted to \$2,926,751, of which \$2,276,934 were entered for consumption.





## MARKET FOR COTTON.

Evidently the speculative contingent in the cotton market anticipated a much larger Government estimate on Monday, although numerous private predictions were still lower. Notwithstanding some delay in announcing the official figures, there was no evidence that anyone secured advance information, as was charged by many impatient speculators. On the contrary, the low estimate came as a sudden shock, traders covering short contracts with a haste that carried prices up violently, and it was practically impossible to deal in small lots, the usual market unit of 100 bales being succeeded by round lots of 5,000 or more. Before the session closed there was reason to believe that about 1,500,000 bales had changed hands, despite the lateness of the publication. Both the New Orleans *Times-Democrat* and Mr. W. P. Brown issued estimates that proved to be almost identical with the department's figure, which was 10,167,818 bales. This compares with 13,654,029 finally secured last year, and would threaten a complete exhaustion of stocks before September 1 if the rate of consumption continues at the previous season's phenomenal amount. But it is presumable that current prices will curtail activity of spindles if maintained. Another element of uncertainty is the fact that last year's official estimate proved about 1,500,000 bales short of the final harvest. This point was emphasized by the short account that was, nevertheless, forced to cover at heavy losses. It is interesting to note that spot middling uplands on Monday sold \$21.25 a bale higher than on the same day last year, when the price was \$22.50 lower than the year previous. It is seldom that a staple commodity exhibits such wide variations from year to year, but cotton has recently puzzled the most experienced operators. Exports and port receipts both hold up remarkably well, considering figures of prices and crop estimates.

SPOT COTTON PRICES						
MIDDLING UPLANDS.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
New York, cents .....	11.65	12.35	12.35	12.60	12.60	12.60
New Orleans, cents .....	11.37	12.00	12.00	12.06	12.12	12.06
Liverpool, pence .....	6.16	6.22	6.35	6.42	6.38	6.42

Latest statistics of cotton supply and movement compare with earlier dates as follows:

		Abroad and		Total.	Week's Increase
		In U. S.	Afloat.		
1905, Dec. 1.....	1,986,474	1,808,000	3,794,474	81,913	
1904, " 2.....	1,776,916	1,761,000	3,537,916	177,151	
1903, " 4.....	1,461,400	1,577,000	3,038,400	183,811	
1902, " 5.....	1,675,419	1,245,000	2,920,419	147,549	
1901, " 6.....	1,591,497	1,607,000	3,198,497	162,963	
1900, " 7.....	1,599,630	1,463,000	3,062,630	184,690	
1899, " 8.....	1,912,192	1,619,000	3,531,192	40,187	
1898, " 9.....	2,079,672	2,371,000	4,450,672	91,567	
1897, " 10.....	1,786,557	1,864,000	3,650,557	148,321	
1896, " 11.....	1,877,516	1,702,000	3,589,516	91,737	
1895, " 12.....	1,588,490	1,952,000	3,540,490	126,581	

From the opening of the crop year to December 1, according to statistics compiled by the *Financial Chronicle*, 5,369,299 bales of cotton came into sight, as compared with 6,162,816 bales last year and 5,309,166 bales two years ago. This week port receipts were 294,036 bales, against 385,757 bales a year ago and 332,316 bales in 1903. Takings by northern spinners for the crop year up to December 1 were 808,203 bales, compared with 816,369 bales last year and 686,255 bales two years ago. Last week's exports to Great Britain and the continent were 308,337 bales, against 324,854 bales in the same week of 1904, while for the crop year 2,455,530 bales compare with 3,224,758 bales in the previous season.

## THE NEW ORLEANS MARKET.

NEW ORLEANS.—Cotton is very active and scored a very large advance, and while all of this was not held prices were well sustained, closing quotations being from sixty-five to seventy points over those of a week ago. The spot market was very firm and is up five-eighths. Receipts of cotton at all ports were 4,302,780 bales, against 4,892,834 last year.

## MARKET FOR COFFEE.

During November the world's visible supply of coffee increased 83,508 bags, making total stocks 13,090,349 on December 1, compared with 14,086,730 bags a year previous, but domestic supplies of Brazil coffee in store and afloat are about 400,000 bags larger than they were a year ago, and receipts at Rio and Santos ports thus far this crop year are slightly larger than in 1904. Spot markets are fairly steady and option trading is quiet. Brazil cables contain nothing especially new.

## THE STOCK AND BOND MARKETS.

Although there were occasional periods of irregularity in the movement of prices, this week's stock market displayed notable strength in the face of developments of an adverse nature, not the least of which was the high rate for money, call loans reaching 28 per cent. The situation in Russia had a disturbing effect on the foreign markets for a time and led to considerable selling from abroad, but the latter only caused temporary hesitation here. Following the publication of President Roosevelt's message to Congress, the market increased in activity and strength, many securities reaching new high records for the year.

The annual report of the Union Pacific, showing over 11 per cent. earned on the common stock after the payment of the full dividend on the preferred, not only exerted a favorable influence on the shares of that particular property, but on the whole list as well. Following its publication Union Pacific rose materially, and its advance was shared in by practically all the other standard railroad shares. St. Paul was helped by possibilities of valuable rights to be issued in connection with its Pacific Coast financing. A pronounced upward movement occurred in the junior Vanderbilt shares, in which New York, Chicago & St. Louis was the leader because of the great extent of its advance. Lake Erie & Western, Lake Shore, and Big Four all scored marked improvement. Nothing developed to explain the pronounced strength of the group, except a revival of stories of a holding company. Reading was less conspicuous than recently, and somewhat irregular. Brooklyn Rapid Transit recovered materially from its late recession.

National Lead was again the particular feature of the industrial list because of its further very sharp rise and later heavy reaction. A sharp rise occurred in Virginia-Carolina Chemical, which was shared in to some extent by Cotton Oil. United States Steel was heavy in tone in the early trading, but improved considerably in the later dealings. A heavy decline in American Telephone & Telegraph reflected the announcement of a new bond issue by the company. There were active movements in American Ice, American Locomotive, Colorado Fuel & Iron, International Paper, Cast Iron Pipe, and a number of smaller industrials.

The daily average closing prices for sixty railway, ten industrial, and five city traction and gas stocks are appended:

	Last year.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
Railway.....	105.80	115.71	116.04	116.99	116.96	116.68	116.76
Industrial.....	69.03	91.07	90.81	91.61	91.97	93.53	94.20
Gas and Traction.	133.45	129.15	128.82	129.15	129.47	129.42	129.79

## RAILROAD AND MISCELLANEOUS BONDS

Railroad and miscellaneous bonds were fairly active and strong. While the more pronounced active features were the same as in recent weeks, there was apparent a broadening tendency to the market, and dealings were recorded in many issues not traded in for some time. American Tobacco 4s were in demand, and improved considerably in price. United States Steel 5s ruled firm on fairly large transactions. Wabash debenture Bs scored a good advance, and there was a revival of activity in the Wabash-Pittsburg Terminal 2d 4s. Other features of the market were American Ice 6s, Brooklyn Rapid Transit 4s, the Colorado Industrial issues, Erie issues, Colorado Midland 4s, Central Leather 5s, Standard Rope & Twine incomes, and the Rock Island issues.

## GOVERNMENT AND STATE BONDS.

The sales of government bonds included, among United States issues 2s, coupon, at 103½; 3s, coupon, at 104; 4s, 1907, registered, at 103½, and 4s, 1925, coupon, at 133½, and among foreign issues Japanese 6s at 99½ to 99¾, second series at 98½ to 99; 4½s at 92½ to 92¾, second series at 92½ to 92¾; Republic of Cuba 5s at 105½, and United States of Mexico 5s at 100. In State securities, Virginia deferred 6s, Brown Bros. & Co. certificates, sold at 21½ to 22.

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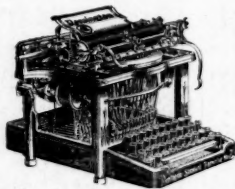
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